

Memorandum to the Shrewsbury School Committee
Prevention of Physical Restraint and Requirement if Used Policy 325
Recommended Updates: First Reading
November 9, 2016

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Background

On March 2, 2015, the Shrewsbury School Committee updated its Prevention of Physical Restraint and Requirements if Used policy (325) in anticipation of revision of 603 CMR 46.00, which went into effect January 1, 2016.

New Requirements

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Department for Elementary and Secondary Education released the Shrewsbury Coordinated Program Review Report of Findings. Under Civil Rights Methods of Administration and Other General Education Requirements (CR), it was noted that the district's Prevention of Physical Restraint and Requirement if Used policy needed to include the following:

- Methods for preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior and suicide, including time-out and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behavior occurring among groups of students or with an individual student;
- Methods for engaging parents and youth in discussions about restraint prevention and use as an emergency procedure;
- Description and explanation of the program's alternatives to physical restraint and method of physical restraint in emergency situations;
- A statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted under 604 CMR 46.03 (1)(b), seclusion and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00;
- A description of the program's training requirements, reporting requirements and follow-up procedures;
- A procedure for receiving and investigating complaints regarding restraint practices;
- If the program uses time-out as a behavior support strategy, a procedure for the use of time-out;
- Provide evidence that all program staff have received training regarding the program's revised restraint prevention and behavior support policy and these policies and procedures have been made available to parents of enrolled students

Please refer to the draft of the proposed changes. All additions are outlined in red ink and deletions are outlined in blue ink. Black ink represents language carried over from the previous policy. I am happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the needed policy revisions.

